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1962/10/22

Department of State

Info

NO: 194, October 22, 2 PM

ACTION DEPARTMENT 194, INFORMATION PANAMA, CITY NLACT 1

DEPCIRTEL 700

When I handed President Rivera letter from President Kennedy at 3 PM local time today he read it carefully and reiterated his full support for our position and his determination to work with US as true friend and ally. He said his representatives in New York and Washington would get immediate instructions to collaborate closely with US in UN and OAS.

"Please assure President Kennedy that he can count on our sincere friendship and that we will give all the support we have."

Rivera said he would like to be the first to make public statement of agreement as soon as possible and would welcome any suggestions from US as to text.

Re internal security he thought recent Salvadoran measures had brought local Commies under control. He listened attentively to my assurance about availability of riot equipment from Canal Zone and said his only need was perhaps an aircraft or

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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-2- 194, October 22, 2 PM, From: San Salvador

two for emergency use. I avoided direct reply by suggesting this be discussed with our military mission.

Re possible military participation, Rivera said he would order his officers to maintain contact with US.

Rivera was not surprised by my visit and said he had been much preoccupied by Cuba and actually had had in mind such firm action as we now contemplated.

WILLIAMS

CC

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